

The Director  
Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D. C. 20505

18 APR 1977

Dear John,

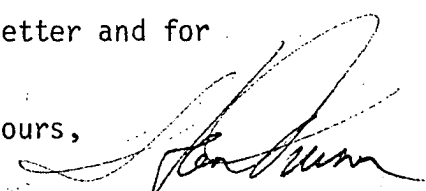
I too enjoyed and benefited from your November visit. My staff was stimulated by the group's presentation and discussions as I hoped they would be, so, all in all, it seemed a mutually profitable visit.

I read your discussion of testing, "Why Not Stop Testing?" with interest, but must admit surprise that you contend that scientific inquiry requires experimentation in all cases. Certainly, that is the accepted scientific methodology for establishing the truth or falsehood of an hypothesis, however, aren't there some instances where experimentation is impossible or impractical and data must be extrapolated - Gerontology for example? Done carefully, I wonder how reliable this extrapolation has been in the past when compared against the data subsequently gained through experimentation. What degree of tolerance between the two would be acceptable in the real world?

I agree that our nuclear forces occupy a special and extremely important place in the power balance, but I am not convinced that a test ban treaty would have the effect you predict. Perhaps it's a problem of the argument in general terms being less than fully convincing, where as with specific examples it might become persuasive.

Many thanks again for your kind letter and for sharing your thoughts with me.

Yours,

  
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Admiral, U.S. Navy

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